



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 15, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Authorization For Bathymetric Survey Of Gibraltar Reservoir

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to MNS Engineers Inc. (MNS), for completion of a bathymetric survey of Gibraltar Reservoir, for an amount not to exceed \$29,860.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara owns and operates Gibraltar Reservoir, which provides approximately 35% of the City's water supply through the Mission Tunnel. The reservoir has been losing storage capacity at a rate of approximately 76 acre-feet per year from the influx of silt and debris. A bathymetric survey has been performed every three years to determine the remaining storage capacity of the reservoir. The survey is conducted by measuring the depth of the reservoir at various locations, and then using the measurements to calculate the remaining storage capacity relative to the top of Gibraltar Dam.

MNS performed a similar bathymetric survey at Gibraltar in October 2007, after the Zaca Fire, but prior to the winter rain storms. The survey determined that Gibraltar had approximately 7500 acre feet of remaining storage capacity. The Zaca Fire burned more than 60% of the Gibraltar watershed, and winter rains caused significant debris flows into the reservoir. The proposed bathymetric survey is necessary to determine the amount of storage capacity that was lost due to impacts from the Zaca Fire.

MNS is one of the City's three-year engineering consultants. They have conducted bathymetric surveys at Gibraltar for the past 16 years, and have submitted an acceptable proposal in the amount of \$27,160 to complete the proposed work. Staff is also requesting \$2,700 in change order authority to cover any unanticipated expenses, for a total amount of \$29,860.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Water Resources routinely conducts bathymetric surveys at Gibraltar Reservoir every three years. This proposed work is an additional survey requested to measure post-fire impacts from the Zaca Fire. Staff has submitted a Disaster Survey Request to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for funding up to 75% of the project costs, with the remaining 25% coming from the City's Water Fund. If the State OES does not fund the project, there are sufficient funds in the Water Fund to cover the entire project costs.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Developing and managing the City's water supply allows for planning to mitigate the effects of drought. The bathymetric study helps to plan for efficient use of the City's water supply.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, Water System Manager/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office